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SIR GEORGE BACK said that he perfectly well remembered the drifting of the junk referred to, on the shores of Western America near the mouth of the Columbia River, while he was on one of his expeditions to Arctic America. He communicated the fact to his Majesty William IV. in the autumn of 1835.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE.

(Printed by order of Council.)

On the Site of Ophir.

[THE following extract from the 'Cape and Natal News,' of August 2nd, 1865, relating to an alleged discovery in Southern Africa, was published in a recent No. of 'Notes and Queries,' by Mr. George Thompson, who believes it probable that the ruins described mark the site of Ophir.]

" We have heard that the Rev. J. L. Dohne, near Durban, has been informed by a German missionary of the discovery of the ruins of ancient cities on the southern part of Africa; and we presume the following account, from the 'Eastern Province Herald,' relates to them :—

" 'Some time ago, a party of travellers, some of whom were connected with the Berlin mission, went on a tour of exploration in the country between the Limpopo and the Zambezi; and here is what they report :—The country from where we started on our tour of discovery is situated in the Leydenbur district, the free territories of the Bafedis (a Basuto chief) chief Sekukune, the son of Sekwaei, where there has been a mission station since the year 1864. We started on our expedition with 10 trustworthy and well-armed Bafedis, and 5 carriers for our little luggage, and took our route north-east to the Limpopo river; two 'Knoapnenzen' served us as conductors to take us to the ruins of Bunjaai,—of which we had heard long ago from some eye-witnesses, who were willing, but only required the permission of their chief Serabane, who was on friendly terms with the natives living near the ruins. Serabane at first positively refused, as he said it would cost his and our lives if he should take us to the ruins, but at last he agreed to let us and his people go there, but on our own risk. One of the conductors had been born and brought up in the neighbourhood of the ruins, and only latterly went to Serabane. On our journey we heard some very interesting particulars about them. They were continually frightened to take us any further, but at last agreed to take us to the neighbourhood of the ruins, and then leave us to our own fate to find our own way. Why Serabane should refuse and his own people be so frightened, I am at a loss to report; at any rate the Bunjaai must be a sacred place, as it is forbidden by punishment of death to take any white man there, kill any game, or even damage any of the trees or shrubs there. Respecting the ruins themselves so much is certain, that there are two places on which Egyptian ruins are standing. The smaller place is situated south of the Limpopo, called Bembe there. There even have been waterworks—the water flowing out of an animal's head cut out of stone. Many stories are connected with this holy place; but more important is the real Bunjaai, situated on the Salis River. This town must have been 'several hours' in circumference. There are one or more pyramids, also Sphynxes, parts of grand buildings, as well as many marble tables full of hieroglyphics, and for the history of Africa certainly very valuable.'

able. There is one underground passage, about half a mile long, full of such tablets with hieroglyphics. This passage has many saloons on each side. The entrance to the one is done very artfully: after pushing a large stone plate aside, you enter into a large saloon. For what purpose this place must have served we could not ascertain, but very likely it has been their burial-ground. Although we should have liked to see these ruins, we found it impossible for us to go any further this time—and only two days' journey from the smaller ruins, as the natives through which we had to pass were diseased by the small-pox and fever, and our natives would not go; so we had to return, arriving six weeks after at the mission station at Vitalatolu. The natives living near the ruins are called Kwarri-Kwarri. The country is very unhealthy through the continual fever. Cattle cannot live, as there is a fly called tsetse, which kills them. Plenty of game. A large marble hill.”
